Country	Number of Indians
United Arab Emirates	1200000
United Kingdom	130000
United States of America	1300000
Uruguay	10
Uzbekistan	360
Vanuatu	0
Venezuela	400
Vietnam	350
Western Samoa	10
Yemen	3500
Yugoslavia	16
Zaire	650
Zambia	60000
Zimbabwe	15500
TOTAL	6758192

Alternate Route for Kailash Mansarovar

1322. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for shifting the existing route to reach the Kailash Mansarovar through Lion Chowk in Ladakh;

(b) whether this alternate route is to cross the Chinese boundary;

(c) how far this route crosses the Chinese boundary; and

(d) whether Government have approached the Chinese Government about the use of that route and the reaction of Chinese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Since 1993, the Government have taken up proposals for an additional/alternate route with the Chinese side. The Demchok (Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir) route is one of them. This route was proposed taking in account the existing logistical facilities which extend almost upto the border.

The Chinese Government's response has been that our proposals for alternative routes are under consideration in consultation with the local authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

They have cited difficulties in opening new routes on the grounds that it would involve travel over much longer distances over difficult terrain with poor road conditions, and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications. They have also expressed the view that development of infrastructure in these remote areas would not be an easy task and building facilities for alternative routes could take a long time.

Government of India, for its part, are willing to consider new routes taking into account the availability of infrastructure and logistical facilities and other relevant factors. Our efforts to open a new route are continuing.

Development of Nuclear Warheads for Gauri Missiles

1323. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the U.S. Intelligence reports quoted in the Washington Times some time in early September, 1998 regarding Pakistan developing nuclear warheads for its Gauri missiles with the technical help of China and North Korea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto and how does Government think that such activities of Pakistan would affect the ongoing talks between the two countries on various issues to normalise relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government have seen the report in the Washington

Times of September 14, 1998, detailing shipments of sophisticated weapons material delivered by North Korea to Pakistan including missile components for Pakistan's missile programme. These supplies were reportedly made in mid-June, 1998 to Pakistan's A.Q. Khan Research Laboratories. It is widely believed that the Ghauri missile is a Pakistani version of the North Korean "Nodong" missile.

(c) India's position on the issue of external assistance to Pakistan's missile programme is well known. Government has also made it clear that continuing supply of sophisticated missile technologies to Pakistan through clandestine means poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to maintenance of peace and stability in the region. India is engaged in a composite dialogue with Pakistan, including discussions on peace and security and confidence building measures. During the Foreign Secretary level talks in Islamabad, 15-18 October, 1998, India and Pakistan underscored their commitment to reduce the risk of a conflict by building mutual confidence in the nuclear and conventional fields.

Restrictions imposed on India following Nuclear Tests

1324. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of restrictions (economic) imposed on India following nuclear blasts in May, 1998;

(b) whether Government have in recent past undertaken any study to take stock of the implications of such restrictions on the Indian economy; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of partial lifting of restrictions on Pakistan by USA; if not, the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) the present stance of Government of India on signing CTBT; and

(e) whether Chief Minister of West Bengal has strongly protested Government's recent stance to sign CTBT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Details of economic restructions against India are as follows:

(i) The United States imposed economic restrictions as mandated under the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, 1994 which includes the Glenn Amendment to the Arms Export Control Act. These restrictions include termination or suspension of all development assistance except for humanitarian purposes; denial of credit and credit guarantees by US Government entities; prohibition of bank loans to Government of India entities except for food or other agricultural commodity purposes; and, prohibition of US exports of dual use goods and technology, which were earlier subject to export licensing. Pursuant to the waiver authority granted by the US Congress, the US President decided to partially waive some of the economic restrictions and EXIM guarantees and OPIC programmes have been restored for a period of one year.

(ii) Japan has frozen grant aid for new projects except for emergency and humanitarian aid; suspended grant assistance for grassroots projects; suspended Yen loans for new projects to India valued at US $ 1 billion; has decided to examine all loans extended to India by multi-lateral financial institutions; and, imposed stringent controls on dual use technology transfers to India.

(iii) Other countries:— Canada has terminated all non-humanitarian